

The Gospel according to Daniel: The Son of Man and the Kingdom of God
Daniel 7-8

Four Essential Truths to See

- The kingdoms of this world are fallen and wicked. (7:1-8)

<u>Roman View</u>	<u>Beast</u>	<u>Greek View</u>
Babylon	Lion with Eagle's Wings	Babylon
Medio-Persia	Bear Raised on One Side	Media
Greece	Leopard with Four Heads	Persia
Rome	Different but Terrifying and Dreadful	Greece

These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. (Daniel 7:17)

- The point of the text:
 - The kingdoms of this world are not God's intention for the world.
 - Babylon is a problem, but that what comes after Babylon isn't the solution.
- The application of the text:
 - The world's hope is not next president, the next superpower, or the next anything.
Revolutions produce other men, not new men. (Barbara Tuchman)
 - The way we conduct ourselves in the church should be an invitation to something more humane than the devouring kingdoms of this world.
- The kingdoms of this world will be judged. (7:9-12)

- There is One who is qualified to judge.
- There is One who is determined to judge.
- Application:

- We should fear God as our Judge.

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

- We should rest in and rejoice in God as the Judge.

There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. ³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. (1 Samuel 2:2-3)

These verses seem designed to hearten the beleaguered people of God. The fourth beast and little horn are no more than introduced (7-8) when we [read verses 9-

12]. There's much more to tell of the fourth beast and little horn (cf. vv. 19-27), but the text insists we forget about that for the present and focus on the Ancient of Days... Seeing this secret behind history may not keep God's people from pain but it should keep them from panic; we may still be fearful but should not be frantic. (Dale Ralph Davis)

- The kingdom of Christ will prevail and endure. (7:13-14)
 - God is not only interested in judging the world...
 - God is most interested in redeeming the world.
 - The Son of Man is a True Man, perfectly imaging God.
 - The Son of Man is truly man, but He is not merely a man.

Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt. (Isaiah 19:1)

- Jesus is the Son of Man spoken of in Daniel 7.

Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matt. 26:64)

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom would come, he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed,²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." (Luke 17:20-21)

And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." (Acts 17:6-7)

- Application:
 - Are you an anxious Christian?
 - Are you a worshipping Christian?
- The people of Christ's kingdom will suffer, but only for a season. (7:15-8:27)
 - Suffering is normal for believers, not exceptional.
 - Suffering is seen by God but not overlooked by God.
 - Suffering is seasonal, not eternal.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)